

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A moisture-reducing device for print media comprising:
2 a paper tray for containing and supporting the media;
3 a desiccant contained in the paper tray proximate to the print media for
4 absorbing moisture from the environment of the paper tray.
- 1 2. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further
2 comprises a silica gel.
- 1 3. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further
2 comprises an activated alumina.
- 1 4. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further
2 comprises a lithium chloride salt.
- 1 5. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further
2 comprises a pre-packaged desiccant.
- 1 6. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the paper tray is
2 lined with the desiccant.
- 1 7. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the desiccant further
2 comprises a molded panel.
- 1 8. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 wherein the paper tray further
2 comprises:
3 a recess formed in the interior of the paper tray; and
4 the desiccant placed in the recess of the tray proximate to the print media.

1 9. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 8 further comprising a panel
2 including a plurality of apertures covering desiccant placed in the recess.

1 10. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 1 further comprising:
2 an air passage pneumatically connected to the paper tray;
3 a heating element pneumatically connected to the air passage;
4 a blower pneumatically connected to the air passage for pressurizing an air
5 flow across the heating element into the paper tray directing a pressurized air flow
6 across the desiccant for purging accumulated moisture from the desiccant.

1 11. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 10 further comprising a
2 humidity sensor connected to the heating element, the heating element responsive
3 to a signal from the humidity sensor indicating that a moisture level of the desiccant
4 equals a pre-selected moisture level.

1 12. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 10 wherein the heating element
2 further comprises an intermittently operating heating element.

1 13. An image forming device comprising:
2 a controller contained within a housing;
3 a print engine including a developer assembly connected to and operatively
4 responsive to the controller;
5 a paper tray attachable to the housing for containing and supporting a media;
6 a media transport mechanism contained within the housing for picking the
7 media from the paper tray and transporting the media through the print engine; and
8 a desiccant contained in the paper tray proximate to the media for absorbing
9 moisture from the environment of the paper tray.

1 14. The image forming device of Claim 13 further comprising:
2 an air passage pneumatically connected to the paper tray;
3 a heating element positioned within the air passage;

4 a blower pneumatically connected to the air passage for pressurizing an air
5 flow across the heating element and into the paper tray directing a pressurized air
6 flow across the desiccant purging accumulated moisture from the desiccant.

1 15. The image forming device of Claim 14 further comprising a humidity
2 sensor connected to the heating element, the heating element responsive to a signal
3 from the humidity sensor indicating that a moisture level of the desiccant equals a
4 pre-selected moisture level.

1 16. The image forming device of Claim 14 wherein the heating element
2 further comprising an intermittently operating heating element.

1 17. The image forming device of Claim 14 wherein the heating element
2 operates in response to a signal from the controller responsive to a pre-selected
3 number of image forming cycles.

1 18. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 14 wherein the desiccant
2 further comprises a silica gel.

1 19. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 14 wherein the desiccant
2 further comprises an activated alumina.

1 20. The moisture-reducing device of Claim 14 wherein the desiccant
2 further comprises a lithium chloride salt.